

# THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

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## Happy Anniversary to Copa Airlines and Reina Beatrix Airport



The Copa and AAA teams



Peter Steinmetz of AAA and Lupe Carrion of Copa cut the cake

ORANJESTAD -- Tomorrow, December 15, marks the 5th anniversary of the inaugural flight of Copa Airlines of Panama to Aruba, with regular service four times a

week from Panama City. Yesterday afternoon, CEO of the Aruba Airport Authority, Peter Steinmetz, welcomed Copa's Country Manager Lupe Carrion and her Aruba

team to the VIP room of the Reina Beatrix Airport to congratulate Copa and celebrate this auspicious occasion.

Mr. Steinmetz mentioned that during the welcoming of that inaugural flight, Copa CEO/CFO Pedro Heilbron predicted they would soon be flying to Aruba daily. The route proved so popular, it soon came to pass. Soon into 2014, the airline will be switching to larger planes with increased capacity, and Ms. Carrion revealed that in mid-June, they expect to increase flights to twice daily. She particularly expressed her thanks to her hardworking crew, whose efforts have won them awards from the airlines.

All of the executive team of the Aruba Airport Authority turned out to congratulate Copa and themselves on this landmark anniversary. "Our partnership with Copa has proven beneficial for all those involved," summed up Mr. Steinmetz.

Having this crucial connection with Latin and Central America that Copa provides, opened up interesting destinations for vacation travelers from Aruba. It also provided the opportunity for commercial contacts that have proven profitable for entrepreneurs in both nations. Personnel from Copa and AAA enjoyed a beautiful cake and impromptu party.

By Rosalie Klein

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## Sorrow, frustration as 100,000 say goodbye to Mandela



South African police try to block mourners while they attempt to walk to the Union building to see the body of former South African President Nelson Mandela, in Pretoria.

PRETORIA (AFP) - Hundreds of South Africans broke through a police cordon Friday in a last-gasp bid to join the estimated 100,000 people who viewed Nelson Mandela's remains during three days of lying in state.

The group pushed past officers moments before the casket was closed and Mandela began his final journey back to his childhood home of Qunu, where he will be buried on Sunday.

Crushing disappointment tainted the final day of the lying in state, with tens of thousands of mourners unable to say their personal farewell to the anti-apartheid icon.

Barely two hours after the public was allowed in to view

the open-top casket, the government said it would be unable to accommodate the huge numbers still waiting and appealed for people to stay away.

Many had camped out to secure an early place in the queue, but as of 7:30 am (0530 GMT) there were already 50,000 waiting for buses to the Union Buildings -- the seat of government where the coffin has been laid out for three days.

By early afternoon, it was clear that most would never get inside, and people started leaving in sad, dejected droves -- many of them having already been turned away the day before.

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## Aruba's Teacher of the year 2013 is: *Marisol Croes*



Marisol receiving the winning award from Min. Hooyboer-Winklaar



ORANJESTAD -- The absolute winner of the Teacher of the Year for 2013 has been chosen...and Marisol Croes from Scol Duna un Man was chosen as the absolute winner among the five nominees. The Minister of Education Michelle Hooyboer - Winklaar made the pleasant announcement. The results came after a diligent process in which judges evaluated different factors in order to select the winner.

Marisol Croes began her career as a teacher at Reina Beatrix School as a fourth grade teacher. After this she worked at Maria Goretti School for 6 years, where she taught 4th and 2nd graders. Thereafter she went to Scol Duna un Man (School for Special Children) where she has been teaching now for the past three years.

Marisol says..."I'm very happy to be the Teacher of the Year and I am sure I'm an ex-



ample to other teachers. This is not an achievement without the help of others, others have helped me in my profession. I do my work for children and do so with a lot of love."

I have to say that parents play an important role in the performance of the children, the communication between teacher and parents is very important. This helps teachers understand better the situation at home so we can better understand the child. After working for 8 years at a school with children without deficiencies, working at Scol Duna un Man I have learned to understand and appreciate each child and have learned that each child has special needs and that I am to meet those needs.

The Minister indicated that it was a pleasure for her to be present at the celebration with Marisol and her students celebrating her nomination as Teacher of the Year. The Minister reported that all other teachers are also special and may have the same characteristics as those nominated, it is just that we choose to select one who gets the focus.

Caribbean Mercantile Bank (CMB) was also present to congratulate the Teacher of The Year and present her with the great gift of a 2 roundtrip tickets to Miami Florida all costs covered plus \$2000 as pocket money. CMB did not forget the other nominees as

they all received Afl. 500.- also.

The Teacher of the Year is a project that must continue, it is a wonderful initiative with a great deal of value for our country and to promote the career of teaching, according to the Minister of Education.



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**Ask for the Soup of the Day**

**Italiestraat # 50 (Orange Plaza) Closed on Mondays**



## Min. Oduber: Offshore Aviation Registry will benefit Aruba



ORANJESTAD -- Minister Otmar Oduber was the invited speaker at the opening of the 3rd 'Offshore Aircraft Registration' conference taking place on Aruba. This conference boasts the presence of top executives involved with Aircraft registration, which showed that the interest is high in this sector.

This conference has grown over the past three years as can be seen from the large turnout.

According to the Minister, it took 4 years to do an inventory, to hold talks with the

Department of Civil Aviation, restructure and make necessary changes in order to achieve the goals set. Some 90 aircrafts have been registered thus far with the intention of gradually increasing this to a total of 300 aircraft registrations on Aruba within the next 5 to 6 years.

Among the attendees at the conference are offshore companies, banks, and lawyers indicating the positive outcome seen in aircraft registry here on Aruba.

The registration of aircrafts on Aruba is obviously a business that could generate between 10 and 20 million dollars in our economy in the next few years. The Minister explained the importance of a program of Offshore Aircraft Registry here on Aruba. This will benefit the economy greatly and the market tied to it. We will be able to expect an elite group who will carry the name of Aruba, with the hope that they would one day also visit Aruba on vacation. According to Minister Oduber, "we have big plans for the Civil Aviation Department. We want to put service and safety awareness as primary aspects to elevate Aruba's name in this particular sector."

## Mary Joan Foundation launches their "Sharing is Caring" campaign



ORANJESTAD -- After a very successful 2013, the Mary Joan Foundation (MJF) is launching their campaign "Sharing is Caring" on Facebook to close off the year. MJF has their fan page where all the services the foundation has to offer are placed, their activities are promoted and info for the community regarding cancer can be found. Valuable tips are also shared, this way, one of the main goals of the foundation is achieved, which is raising awareness regarding this disease.

A spokesperson for the foundation explained: "What we would like to achieve thru this campaign is for the

Aruban community to show via Facebook that they care thru "sharing" and "liking" our page. If you "care" you will "share." To make this campaign even more interesting there will be different promotional prizes, which will be raffled among all those who "liked" or "shared" our page.

"We are asking the whole community to support our campaign, so together we can make a difference and reach more people in our community."

Mary Joan Foundation does a tremendous job in the community by giving lectures to raise awareness concerning breast cancer, while also giving emotional, spiritual and physical support to cancer patients or those who are recuperating.

For more information please drop by our office situated at Sabana Blanco 8, call us at tel: 588-9999 or mail us at maryjoanfoundation@setar-net.aw. Like us on FB "Mary Joan Foundation Aruba."

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## Aruba Ports Authority and Curoil signs agreement One more reason for cruise ships to choose Aruba's Port



ORANJESTAD -- After signing a letter of intent a year ago to work together with the Aruba Investment Bank on a feasibility study and a possi-

ble partnership, Aruba Ports Authority Director, Alfonso Boekhoudt and Curoil Director Yamil Lasten formalized a bunkering agreement be-

tween Curoil and Aruba Ports Authority on Monday, November 18th, 2013.

In 2011 APA introduced an incentive package on the "Cruise Passenger Fee" (CPF), "Wharfage Fee", y "Pilotage Fee" to attract more cruise liners during the low season (April through October). The program turned out not only beneficial for APA's clients, but also for APA itself by increasing their income since it has been implemented.

Besides this the port also offered reduced water tariffs since December 1st, 2013 and as of November 2013, began offering bunkering possibilities.

The analysis conducted by (AIB) confirmed that the bunkering services would be beneficial for both companies making our port more attractive for cruise liners and the shipping industry in general. The signing of the agreement will benefit the Aruban economy and create additional possibilities for Curoil to expand its services. Both companies look forward to a fruitful outcome of this understanding.



**Caya G.F. Betico Croes 3**  
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## Salamander Holdings distributes donations in the Tikkun Olam program



Donation recipients with Jodi and Rona Coster

ORANJESTAD -- Salamander Holdings, founded on Aruba by U.S. expatriate Jodi Tobman, operates a number of fine shops around the island under the names of Juggling Fish, T.H. Palm & Company, Coconut Trading,

The Lazy Lizard, Caribbean Clothing and Caribbean Queen.

A few years ago, Jodi established the Tikkun Olam program. Tikkun Olam is Hebrew for "repairing" or "healing the world." Salamander Holding invites its customers to join the company in supporting local foundations, which play an important role in the health and healing of island society. Patrons making a purchase at one of its stores can earmark a percentage of the sale to be donated to the foundation of their choice.

On Wednesday evening, December 11, the foundations sponsored by Salamander Holdings were awarded their donations at the Caribbean Queen store in Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Ms. Tobman has been distributing the checks to the various groups since initiating the program at T.H. Palm in 2008, but had not previously hosted a little ceremony and festive gathering for recipients.

"Last year," she explained, "I had the task of actually de-



Jodi Tobman, CEO of Salamander Holdings

livering a donation personally. It made me feel so great, I wanted my store managers to also share in this wonderful sense of purpose." Rather than hand out the checks herself, she arranged for her various store managers, along with executives from their headquarters, to enjoy this gratifying task. She offered commendation for their efforts to see that customers to their store are aware of and donate to the program.

Foundations receiving donations this year include Clown Doctors, the Wilhelmina Cancer Fund, Pancake Gallery, Aruba Autism Foundation, Aruba Alzheimer's Foundation, The Center for Battered Women,

Ateliers '89 Arts Center, Aruba International Art Foundation and the Youth Hotline. The groups address a number of functions for all ages, not only for the disabled, diseased and those in domestic crisis, but also foundations that encourage art and cultural education for island youth.

"Think Global, Act Local," is posted in each of the shops, to stimulate awareness of social responsibility. Customers are also invited to suggest foundations they feel are worthy of consideration, and each year, different foundations have benefited from this program.

By Rosalie Klein

## Distinguished Visitors honored at Marriott Surf Club



Recently Mr. Arnie and Mrs. Roanne Silver resident of New Jersey were honored as Distinguished Visitors after returning Aruba for 12 years.

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between 10 and 20 consecutive years.

The honorees are members of Marriott Surf Club and have been enjoying the Island every year.

Ms. Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Luzdary Leest conducted the ceremony at Marriott Surf Club.

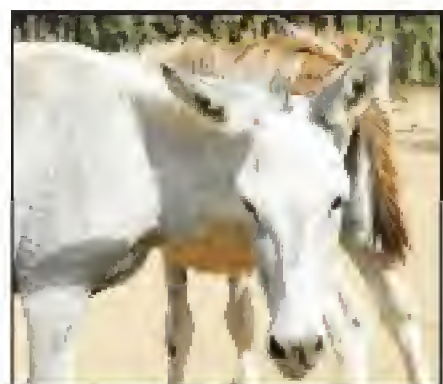
The main reasons for returning provided by the honorees is the Reliable weather, Beautiful Blue Ocean, friendly Aruban Hospitality.

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## Meet Orchid



ORANJESTAD -- "We would like to introduce Orchid to you, one of the donkeys that has found a home at the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary. Before Orchid came to live at the sanctuary, she was a daredevil, sauntering in the middle of the road together with her daughter Cymbi. This dangerous lifestyle came to an end when the inhabitants of Rooi Master lured her and nine other donkeys into their garden. A trailer took all of them to the sanctuary, where Orchid delivered a son named Gismo after two days. Orchid had a hard time adjusting to life at the sanctuary, she was very stressed out, but everything became much better when we succeeded in catching her daughter Cymbi. Their reunion was emotional and very, very happy and from that moment on, life became much more agreeable for Orchid, said a Donkey Sanctuary spokesperson.

The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. The donkeys are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers for the sanctuary.

Volunteers try to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities and the sale of great donkey memorabilia in the shop.

Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3. Entry is free of charge and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream.

The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30,- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website [www.arubandonkey.org](http://www.arubandonkey.org) or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it! Would you like to follow the donkeys on Facebook: surf to Donkey Sanctuary Aruba please.



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## Ms. Tanja Timmermans to replace Mr. van der Wulp as Dutch representative on Aruba



ORANJESTAD -- VNO  
(Vertegenwoordiging van

Nederland in Aruba) - the Dutch Representative on Aruba, wishes to announce to the general public that as of December 15, 2013 Ms. Tanja Timmermans will occupy the position of Alternative Representative of the Netherlands on Aruba. She will replace Gerard van der Wulp, who is

the Dutch Government Representative on Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten.

Ms. Timmermans will also occupy the post of Manager of the VNO offices, situated in Oranjestad. She will replace Geneviève Lieuw who will be returning to the Netherlands to work at the Dutch Ministry of

Justice and Security.

Since 2001 Ms. Timmermans has been employed by the Ministry of Interior Affairs and Kingdom Relations where she has occupied several positions within the Department. She has also worked for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Develop-



## US airport worker arrested for car bomb plot

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US authorities arrested an aviation worker Friday in an apparent sting operation after he tried to explode what he thought was a car bomb at an airport in the state of Kansas.

Terry Lee Loewen, 58, was apprehended as part of an undercover investigation when he arrived at Wichita airport.

The avionics technician had been under investigation for several months by a terrorism task force in Wichita.

"Those explosives were inert and it was not a bomb that would ever explode," US attorney for Kansas Barry Grissom told reporters.

Grissom did not reveal where Loewen had obtained the inert bomb. In previous similar cases undercover officers have supplied suspects with bomb-making materials.

He was charged with trying to use a weapon of mass destruction, trying to damage property with explosives and trying to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization.

"At no time was the airport perimeter breached, and

... at no time was any citizen or a member of the traveling public in any type of danger," Grissom said.

According to a statement by the US Department of Justice, Loewen had earlier "made statements that he was resolved to commit an act of violent jihad against the United States."

He had also studied the airport, its flight schedules and acquired bomb-making equipment, the statement said.

There was no indication that Loewen was working with any religious communities in Wichita, Grissom said.

If convicted, Loewen could face a maximum penalty of life in prison.

"Lone wolves -- home grown violent extremists remain a very serious threat to our nation's security, said FBI Special Agent in Charge Michael Kaste in the statement.

"Today's arrest emphasizes the continual need for the public to remain vigilant as law enforcement relies on the public's assistance."

## Sorrow, frustration as 100,000 say goodbye to Mandela

Continued from pg 1

"We really thought this was the day. But again we did not get to see the old man," said Lydia More, 31, who got in line at 7:00am.

"We just feel empty. It's so sad," she said.

The South African government said a total of 100,000 people saw Mandela's remains during the three days his body lay in state.

"The third day closed with over 50,000 paying their respects to our national icon," the government, adding to previous tallies.

"The whole of South Africa wants to say goodbye"

Tempers frayed at one of the waiting venues, with mourners pushing back against police who tried to get them to go home.

"It's just not possible," said one police officer who declined to be named. "There are too many people. The whole of the Republic of South Africa wants to say goodbye."

For those who did manage to enter the venue, the last glimpse of Mandela prompted powerful feelings.

"It's truly a moving event. As you walk past his body, you're overcome with emotion," said Sakib Khan, a British national living in South Africa since 2002.

Mandela's body is scheduled to be taken to Waterkloof air force base early Saturday morning, for the two-hour flight to Qunu in Eastern Cape province, where he grew up.

On Sunday, some 5,000 people, including foreign dignitaries, are expected to participate in a formal, two-hour ceremony beginning at 8:00am (0600 GMT).

But the actual burial will be a strictly private affair, barred to both the public and the media, government spokeswoman Phumla Williams told AFP.

"The family has indicated they want to make the burial a family matter," Williams said.



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## Kerry 'hopeful' can strike final Mideast peace deal

JERUSALEM (AFP) - US Secretary of State John Kerry said Friday he hoped to help achieve a peace agreement encompassing Israeli security needs and Palestinian sovereignty, as he wrapped up his regional visit.

But Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas dampened hopes by rejecting US proposals for Israel to keep a military presence in a future Palestinian state.

"We are working on an approach that both guarantees Israel's security and fully respects Palestinian sovereignty," Kerry told reporters in Tel Aviv before boarding a plane to Vietnam.

Kerry insisted the goal remained for the sides "to reach a final status agreement - not an interim agreement", and said Israel will release as planned a new group of Palestinian prisoners on De-

cember 29.

"Both parties remain committed to fulfilling their obligations to stay at the table and negotiate hard during the nine-month period that we set for that" when talks were launched at the end of July, said Kerry.

On Friday morning, Kerry met Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for what the Israeli premier described as a discussion on how to "advance our goals of peace and security."

Kerry, who completed his second visit to the region within a week, said that US military expert General John Allen outlined in talks with Abbas a security plan for the West Bank and Israel, which could be implemented following a peace accord.

But Abbas rejected US proposals for Israel to keep a military presence in a future

Palestinian state along its strategic border with Jordan, a source close to the Palestinian president told AFP.

"President Abbas has rejected the ideas presented by the secretary of state," the Palestinian source said earlier Friday, a day after Kerry met Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

**'Palestinian red lines'**

Abbas also handed Kerry a letter laying down "Palestinian red lines", the source added, singling out "the refusal to recognise Israel as a Jewish state".

Abbas "rejected the ideas on security because there is not a third party".

This refers to a plan by former US national security adviser James Jones under which a third party would deploy along the Palestinian-Jordanian border.



## Deadly clashes in Bangladesh after top Islamist hanged

DHAKA (AFP) - Bangladesh was rocked by a new wave of deadly violence Friday as Islamist supporters went on the rampage to vent their fury at the execution of one of their leaders for war crimes.

Abdul Quader Molla became the first person to be hanged for his role in the country's bloody 1971 war of independence from Pakistan when he was sent to the gallows at a prison in the capital Dhaka late Thursday.

The hanging took place at 10:01 pm (1601 GMT) after the Supreme Court dismissed an appeal for a final review of the death sentence handed down to Molla, who was a senior figure in the Jamaat-e-Islami party.

Molla had been found guilty in February by a much-criticised domestic tribunal of having been a leader of a pro-Pakistan militia that fought against the country's independence and killed some of Bangladesh's top professors, doctors, writers and journalists.

He was convicted of rape, murder and mass murder, including the killing of more than 350 unarmed civilians.

Prosecutors called him the "Butcher of Mirpur", a Dhaka suburb where he committed most of the atrocities.

Fears that the execution could spark further unrest, in a country where political violence is intensifying in the build-up to deeply divisive elections, were soon realised as the Islamists rioted in street battles in towns and cities.

Three protesters were killed and two activists from the ruling Awami League were hacked to death Friday, police officials told AFP, with an Islamist becoming the latest fatality after he was shot dead during clashes with ruling party activists in the southern town of Sonaimuri.

Rampaging Jamaat activists firebombed train stations, set fire to businesses and houses belonging to ruling party supporters and blockaded key highways, they said.

Violence also erupted near the country's largest mosque in Dhaka after Friday prayers as Jamaat activists detonated crude bombs and torched at least a dozen cars and vehicles, AFP correspondents at the scene said.

Police fired rubber bullets to

disperse the crowds, critically injuring a 12-year-old child, footage aired by private station Channel 24 showed.

Activists also tried to burn down the coastal village home of one of the war crimes trial judges, local police chief Anisur Rahman told AFP.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said Bangladesh was passing through a "very sensitive moment", urging all parties to resolve their differences peacefully.

Authorities went ahead with the execution despite widespread international appeals against the move, including from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Neighbouring India -- which was an ally of the then East Pakistan in the independence war -- did not join in the condemnation, saying the execution was the "outcome of internal judicial processes and laws of Bangladesh".

The Bangladeshi government, which has also rebuffed international pressure to delay the elections scheduled for next month, was unrepentant about the decision to carry out the execution of 65-year-old Molla.

## Iran quits nuclear talks protesting US blacklist move

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iran has quit nuclear talks with world powers, accusing Washington on Friday of going against the spirit of a landmark agreement reached last month by expanding its sanctions blacklist.

US Secretary of State John Kerry and a spokesman for EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, who represents the major powers in the talks, both played down the suspension and said talks were expected to resume soon.

But Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Abbas Araqchi said the US move went against the spirit of the deal struck in Geneva under which the powers undertook to impose no further sanctions for six months in exchange for Iran curbing its controversial nuclear activities.

Tehran was now weighing the "appropriate response," Araqchi told the Fars news agency as his team headed back to Tehran from Vienna.

Iran's ambassador to France, Ali Ahani, warned at a press conference in Monaco that such moves could serve to boost opposition within his country to a deal with the West.

A senior official of the elite Revolutionary Guards, Brigadier General Yadollah Javani, told Fars: "Government officials should ... take practical measures proportionate to the act of the other party."

Under the deal, Iran agreed to freeze parts of its suspect nuclear programme for six months in return for some \$7 billion in relief from Western sanctions as it negotiates a final, comprehensive accord to allay suspicions it seeks a weapons capability.

Iranian negotiators quit the implementation talks late on their fourth day Thursday after Washington blacklisted a dozen companies and individuals for evading US sanctions.

Foreign ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham was quoted by state news agency IRNA as saying "the consequences of this unstudied move (are) completely on the American government."

Kerry says talks making progress.

Kerry, however, made no mention of a breakdown in the talks in remarks to reporters as he concluded a trip to Israel.

A spokesman for the EU foreign policy chief also said

both sides needed to return home for consultations and that Iran's move was not unilateral.

Under Iran's deal with the P5+1 -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States plus Germany -- Washington agreed to refrain from imposing new sanctions on Iran.

But senior administration officials argued that Thursday's blacklistings were carried out within the framework of the existing sanctions regime, which had forced Tehran to the negotiating table, and did not constitute new measures.



### Lunch Buffet

Saturday - Sunday

12:00 - 3 p.m.

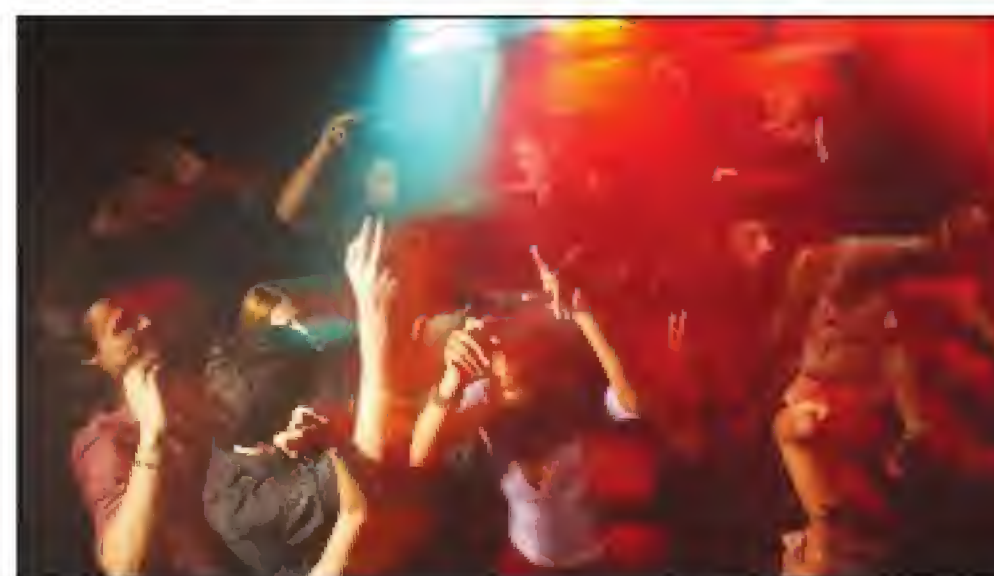
### Dinner

Monday - Sunday

6:00 - 11:00 p.m

Palm Beach Center - Palm Beach Aruba - Tel: 5860944

## Dutch production of party drug ecstasy rises sharply



THE HAGUE - Dutch police have dismantled 42 laboratories producing the party drug ecstasy this year, up from 29 in 2012 and almost double the 2011 total, Nos television reported on Friday.

Police have also been alerted to almost twice as many dumps of left-over chemicals this year as in 2012, indicating production is up sharply, the justice ministry figures show.

Most of the pills produced in the Netherlands are destined

for foreign consumption. The trade is lucrative because Dutch ecstasy is of high quality and is much more expensive in other countries than in the Netherlands, Nos said.

The labs are mainly located in Brabant, where marijuana growers are making the switch to other drugs.

Police last year also seized 60,000 kilos of chemicals used to make the drug so far this year. Half of this was found in the Netherlands, the other half was in the process of being shipped to Dutch buyers.



ARLINGTON, VA (AFP) - A flag draped casket containing the remains of U.S. Air Force Col. Francis J. McGouldrick are carried during a full honors burial service, at Arlington Cemetery, on December 13, 2013 in Arlington, Virginia. The remains of Col. McGouldrick were recently recovered in Laos from a site where his plane crashed on December 13, 1968.



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## Belgian upper house approves euthanasia for children

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Belgium's upper house on Thursday backed plans to extend mercy-killing to terminally-ill children amid an intense public debate.

The Senate voted 50 in favour, 17 against for the measure, which must now go to the lower house. Supporters hope it will be approved ahead of elections in May.

The bill allows minors to ask for euthanasia on the grounds that their illness is terminal, that they are in great pain and that there is no treatment to alleviate their distress.

The request has to be agreed by the patient's medical team and approved by the child's parents.

"We want this law to be passed before the dissolution of parliament," said Socialist MP Karine Lalieux.

Belgium introduced euthanasia in 2002 for those aged 18 and



over, and would follow in the footsteps of neighbour the Netherlands which allows mercy killing for children over 12.

The Belgian legislation does not set an age limit but states that the patient has to be conscious of their situation and understand the meaning of a request for euthanasia.

It is thought that there

would be only 10-15 cases a year, based on statements from doctors and nurses that the practice exists outside the law for terminally-ill youngsters in physical distress.

Last month, 16 paediatricians urged lawmakers to approve the legislation.

A recent poll shows three quarters of Belgians approve the move but a group of Christian, Muslim and Jewish leaders oppose it as undermining the value of human life.

After the Netherlands and Belgium, Luxembourg in 2009 also approved euthanasia but for adults only. In Switzerland, doctors can assist a patient seeking to die but euthanasia itself is illegal.

Belgium logged a record 1,432 cases of euthanasia in 2012, up 25 percent.

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## Cancer cases up 11%, breast cancer by a fifth: WHO

GENEVA (AFP) - The number of new cancer cases around the globe jumped by 11 percent in a five-year period, reaching 14.1 million in 2012, with breast cancer increasing by one-fifth, the UN health agency said Thursday.

The World Health Organization also reported that cancer deaths had risen by 8.4 percent from 2008 to 2012, hitting 8.2 million.

The "GLOBOCAN 2012" report by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a France-based arm of the WHO, was based on data on 28 forms of cancer in 184 countries.

The most commonly diagnosed cancers worldwide were those of the lung (13 percent), breast (11.9 percent), and colorectum (9.7 percent).

The biggest killers were lung cancer, responsible for almost one-fifth of total deaths, followed by cancer of the liver (9.1 percent) and stomach (8.8 percent).

The WHO said it expected the number of new cancer cases to rise to 19.3 million per year by 2025, due to the growth and ageing of the global population.

In 2012, close to 57 percent of all new cancer cases, and almost 65 percent of cancer deaths occurred in the world's less-developed regions, and these trends are likely to increase, it said.

The report spotlighted the sharp increase in cases of breast cancer around the world.

In 2012, 1.7 million women were diagnosed with breast



cancer, and there were 6.3 million women alive who had been diagnosed with breast cancer in the previous five years, it said.

Since 2008, the incidence of breast cancer has increased by more than 20 percent, while mortality was up by 14 percent.

Breast cancer is the most common cause of cancer death among women, with 522,000 deaths in 2012. It now represents one in four of all cancers in women.

"Breast cancer is also a leading cause of cancer death in the less developed countries of the world," David Forman, head of the IARC's cancer data division, said in a statement.

"This is partly because a shift in lifestyles is causing an increase in incidence, and partly because clinical advances to combat the disease are not reaching women living in these regions," he added.

In addition, cervical cancer is a huge concern, notably in poor nations.

In sub-Saharan Africa, 34.8 new cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed per 100,000 women annually, and 22.5 per 100,000 women die from the disease. These figures compare with 6.6 and 2.5 new cases per 100,000 women, respectively, in North America.

Lack of access to effective screening and to services that facilitate early detection and treatment are to blame, the WHO said.

### How To Stay Healthy

- ✓ Exercise Frequently
- ✓ Eat Healthy Foods.
- ✓ Drink Plenty of Water.

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## Illegal download site creators face 3mneuro damages claim

LYON (AFP) - French entertainment industry bodies and major US film studios are to seek nearly three million euros in damages at a civil hearing on Friday from two French youths who ran an illegal downloading site.

The two, aged 22 and 27, were found guilty in April and given suspended six-month sentences and fined 5,000 euros (\$6,900) each for operating the site, Undealink, which provided links to illegal copies of copyrighted material.

The request for damages is expected to be considered at the court in the eastern town of Bourg-en-Bresse, but the decision may be deferred to another date.

Among those demanding damages are French film distributors and US studios Columbia, Disney, Paramount, Tristar, 20th Century Fox, Universal and Warner Bros.

They are claiming 2.5 million euros in damages and interest, alleging that the site provided access to 520,000 links and facilitated around 80 million downloads, earning the pair around 24,000 euros between May and December 2011.

## Beyonce releases surprise album on iTunes

NEW YORK (AFP) - American singer Beyonce surprised her fans Friday by releasing her previously unannounced fifth solo album on iTunes.

The self-titled album has 14 new songs and 17 videos and is available exclusively through the Apple online music store, her record label said in a statement.

"I didn't want to release my music the way I've done it (in the past)," Beyonce said in the statement. Her label, Sony, said the surprise, Internet-only release was also a way of stopping pre-release leaks of her new material.

A hard copy, double CD/DVD of the album will be available in stores before Christmas, it said.

Collaborators on the new album include Timbaland, Justin Timberlake, Pharrell Williams, Drake, and Beyonce's husband, Jay Z.



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## Don't miss today! Holidays are here with festive shopping nights at Do It Center



festive holiday decorations for indoor and out

ORANJESTAD - Aruba's newest and most stylish home/hardware mega-mart, Do It Center, is celebrating the season and inviting all the island to join in the festivities. Now through Christmas they are featuring extended hours every Saturday evening until 8:00 PM, including entertainments.

The enormous Do It Center in Shaba has everything for fixing up the home for the holidays, from paint and building materials, to an extremely attractive collection of Xmas

specialty items and decorations.

Unique Christmas lights, pillows, wall hangings and all the materials for creating personalized, decorative wreaths can be found at very reasonable prices.

Many families are making an evening of it, taking time to enjoy favorite holiday treats such as olibollen and ayaca from the in-house cafe, Do It Pizza and More.

The clean, attractive restaurant serves not only pizza, but a fresh soup and special de



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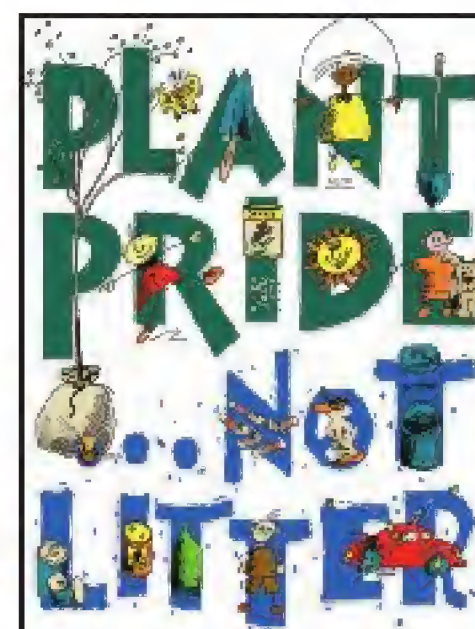
jour, and exceptionally pleasing prices.

Making the home spiffy and festive for the end of the year is an Aruban tradition. Whether it is a new coat of paint, curtains or specialized seasonal decorations, Do It Center has beautiful solutions to all your holiday and home decor dilemmas.

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## US to keep up spying program with new safeguards : report

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A White House review will conclude that a sweeping US spy agency program to collect data on telephone calls and Internet use should continue but with new privacy safeguards, reports said Friday.

The New York Times also reported that President Barack Obama's study would recommend making public the privacy protections foreign citizens can expect when their telephone or Internet records are gathered by the National Security Agency.

Separately, a US official said the White House had also decided to maintain the "dual-hatted" arrangement which sees a single military officer head the NSA eavesdropping service and US cyber warfare operations.

The Wall Street Journal meanwhile said the task force would recommend that records of phone calls held by the NSA after the massive data mining operations should be held by telephone companies and not the spy agency.

The report comes as the administration finalizes a review ordered by Obama into the NSA's sweeping worldwide data and phone record collection, following revelations by fugitive intelligence contractor Edward Snowden.

The Times said that the committee conducting the review would recommend that top White House officials directly examine the list of foreign leaders whose communications are monitored by the NSA.

The protection will be introduced in the wake of a furor over revelations that US spies eavesdropped on the mobile phone of German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The Times also said that the White House review would create a body of legal profes-

sionals who would argue against lawyers for the NSA over espionage operations in the existing Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which oversees surveillance.

White House officials declined to comment on the Times report, saying that the review was not yet finalized.

But officials said that the study into NSA operations in the wake of the Snowden affair was still expected to be delivered to the president by Sunday.

National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden also said that the White House had decided to maintain the current "dual-hatted" arrangement that sees a top military officer head the NSA and US Cyber Command.

Some critics of the current system had argued that the NSA and the military's cyber warfare command should be headed by different officials to avoid too much clandestine power residing in one official.

But Hayden said that after

an interagency review, the administration "decided that keeping the positions of NSA Director and Cyber Command Commander together as one, dual-hatted position is the most effective approach to accomplishing both agencies' missions."

In practice, the decision means that the NSA will continue to be headed by a military officer -- as the head of Cyber Command will of necessity be a senior member of the armed services.

The current head of the two agencies, four-star General Keith Alexander, retires early next year.

Obama said last week that he would introduce some restraints on the NSA following the review.

It remains unclear when Obama will present unclassified findings of the report publicly.

A flurry of intelligence leaks from Snowden, who is living in temporary asylum in Russia, lifted the lid on a vast global spying network.

## Peru-Chile sea border ruling set for January 27



SANTIAGO (AFP) - The International Court of Justice will deliver its ruling on a long-running maritime boundary dispute between Chile and Peru on January 27, Chile said on Friday.

Peru took its neighbor to The Hague in 2008, saying their border in the Pacific Ocean was unclear and accusing Chile of appropriating its territory.

Chile insists that the border was settled by two agreements signed in 1952 and 1954 -- treaties that Peru argues were meant to regulate fishing, not demarcate the border.

"The International Court of Justice has informed the parties (the decision) that will be read in open court... on Monday, January 27, 2014," Chile's foreign ministry said in a statement.

The two countries have historically had strained relations stemming from the border dispute, which dates from Chile's defeat of Peru in the late 19th century War of the Pacific.

Peru welcomed Friday's announcement, saying it hoped the court would rule in its favor.

## Jerusalem buried in snow as rare storm pounds Mideast

JERUSALEM (AFP) - A fierce winter storm shut down much of the Middle East Friday, burying Jerusalem in snow, flooding parts of Gaza and bringing frigid, wet weather to war-ravaged Syria. The hilltop city of Jerusalem was paralysed by its fiercest snowstorm in years, with its mayor calling out the army to help stranded motorists and authorities urging residents to stay indoors. Main roads



into the city, which climb around 795 metres (2,600 feet) above sea level, were closed and police appealed to drivers not to attempt the journey. Temperatures in the city were predicted to reach a high of two degrees celsius (35.6 Fahrenheit) during the day and drop below freezing later, with the snowfall that started Thursday continuing into today. By mid-morning police had been called to help about 1,500 drivers in the city and on the roads leading to it, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld told AFP. He said about 1,000 stranded travellers were given shelter at the Jerusalem International Conference Centre while hundreds more were taken to a nearby military base.

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Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.69
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.94
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	201.38
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	246.94
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	27.60
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	33.33
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	29.34
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	173.99

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## Spain's public debt hits new record in third quarter

MADRID (AFP) - Spain's public debt, which has risen unchecked for the past five years of economic crisis, hit a new record of 93.4 percent of gross domestic product in the third quarter, the Bank of Spain said Friday.

Spain's centre-right government, which last month announced it would ease its austerity reforms over the coming two years since the economy appears to be emerging from recession, has set a year-end debt-to-GDP target of 94.2 percent.

It sees the debt-to-GDP ratio peaking at 101.13 percent in 2015 before easing slightly to 101.09 percent in 2016.

Under the terms of the European Union's Maastricht Treaty, member states are supposed to have public deficits of no more than three percent of GDP, and debt of no more than 60 percent.

Spain's debt ratio has soared from 40.2 percent of GDP in 2008 -- when the end of a decade-long property boom triggered an economic slump -- to 85.9 percent at the end of 2012.

The ratio stood at 79.1 per-

cent during the third quarter of 2012.

Since his landslide election victory two years ago, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has pushed through unpopular spending cuts, tax rises and labour reforms in a bid to stabilise the public finances of the economy, the fourth-biggest in the eurozone.

But last month he announced his government would ease its austerity drive.

The latest official figures show Spain timidly emerged from a two-year recession in the third quarter of this year, but the unemployment rate remains extremely high at nearly 26 percent.

## Oil prices drop on oversupply, US stimulus concerns

LONDON (AFP) - Crude oil futures retreated this week on oversupply concerns as commodity traders focused largely on the outlook for US stimulus.

**OIL:** Oil prices slid on Friday as dealers fretted over a global oversupply in crude, while speculation the US Federal Reserve will soon scale back its stimulus programme also weighed.

"Investors are not only concerned about an oversupply in the US from shale oil, but also from OPEC member countries like Iraq which have pledged to increase supply even if prices fall significantly," Kelly Teoh, market strategist at IG Markets in Singapore, told AFP.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) earlier this month agreed to keep its production ceiling unchanged at 30 mil-

## S&P downgrades Venezuela citing policy 'radicalization'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Standard & Poor's cut Venezuela's credit rating by one step Friday and put the country on watch for another downgrade, citing the "growing radicalization of economic policy."

"We expect the results of the December 8 municipal elections to reinforce the recent trend toward more government intervention in the economy, creating greater uncertainty," S&P said.

S&P cut the rating to "B-", already well into junk-bond territory, and added a "negative outlook" to the rating.

The agency said it foresees the continuation of "erratic" economic policies by the government of Nicolas Maduro, seven months after he took the presidency following the death of socialist strongman Hugo Chavez, his longtime mentor.

In November, the National Assembly granted Maduro power to rule by decree for one year to fight corruption and respond to what he has called an "economic war" unleashed by the opposition with US support.

He quickly rolled out a series of measures to force price cuts, notably on household appliances and cars, and threatened speculators with prison.

But S&P pointed to a sharp rundown in the country's international reserves over the past two months as the government tries to get inflation under control with price-control programs.

That has left Venezuela even more dependent on oil income, and weakens the government's ability to endure any financial shocks, the agency said.

"The recent political shift

overturns an earlier initiative that had taken place in mid-year to introduce more pragmatic economic policy," it said.

S&P said it expected Caracas to continue confronting fiscal pressures by devaluing the bolivar, increasing the local currency value of oil receipts.

Even so, it expects further deterioration of the situation, which "could increase the risks of a government debt default over the next two years."

Maduro survived the first major test of his rocky seven-month-old presidency Sunday, as the ruling Socialists won a majority of votes in Venezuela's local elections.

But the opposition won in five of the country's most populous cities, including Caracas, increasing pressure on Maduro.

## Las Vegas Sands abandons Spanish mega-casino project

MADRID (AFP) - US casino operator Las Vegas Sands said Friday it has dropped plans to invest over \$30 billion in a mega-resort scheme that promised 260,000 direct and indirect jobs for crisis-hit Spain.

The company, owned by US billionaire Sheldon Adelson, said it would "continue aggressive pursuit of opportunities in Asia" where it already operates properties in Singapore and Macao.

"Developing integrated resorts in Europe has been a vision of mine for years, but there is a time and place for everything," Adelson said in a statement.

"Right now our focus is on encouraging Asian countries, like Japan and Korea, to dramatically enhance their tourism offering through the development of integrated resorts there," he added.

Las Vegas Sands, the world's

biggest casino company by market value, said in February it had chosen Alcorcon, a suburb of Madrid, as the site for what would have been Europe's largest resort.

The "Eurovegas" project called for the construction of four casino complexes with 12 hotels providing 36,000 rooms, nine theatres, three golf courses, and convention centres over a period of 10-15 years.

The project was welcomed by Spain's centre-right government in a country grappling with a jobless rate of 26 percent.

But opponents, which included the Roman Catholic Church and members of Spain's "indignant" movement against social equality, complained that the casinos would spawn prostitution and crime.

They also argued the project would mark a return to the excesses of Spain's property bubble, which imploded in 2008 triggering a double-dip recession.

Adelson had been pressuring the government to exempt the projects from the country's anti-tobacco law, one of the strictest in Europe, but this had been fiercely opposed by anti-smoking campaigners.

Las Vegas Sands operates The Venetian and The Palazzo casinos in Las Vegas and Marina Bay Sands in Singapore. It also operates properties in Macao.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

S	C	A	T	A	P	T
M	I	R	T	H	N	O
E	X	I	L	E	O	L
N	E	E	A	P	R	I
U	S	D	A	E	A	T
S	T	A	K	E		
H	O	T	E	L	R	B
C	O	R	O	N	E	T
B	O	N	U	S	A	L
S	T	O	N	E	T	E
T	D	S		E	A	S



# COMICS

## PICKLES



## MOMMA



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### ACROSS

- 1 \_\_\_ the line (obeyed the rules)
- 5 Work hard
- 10 Walk in water
- 11 Idolized
- 13 "One \_\_\_" (Patti Page hit, 2 wds.)
- 14 Lisa Bonet on "The Cosby Show"
- 15 Mayor's domain

### 17 Blank

- space
- 18 Broker's unit
- 20 Farm storage spot
- 21 Monopoly rent-increaser
- 22 Adjusts a piano
- 23 Insecticide brand
- 24 Cheaper
- 25 "\_\_\_ to Pieces" (2 wds.)

### 26 Survey

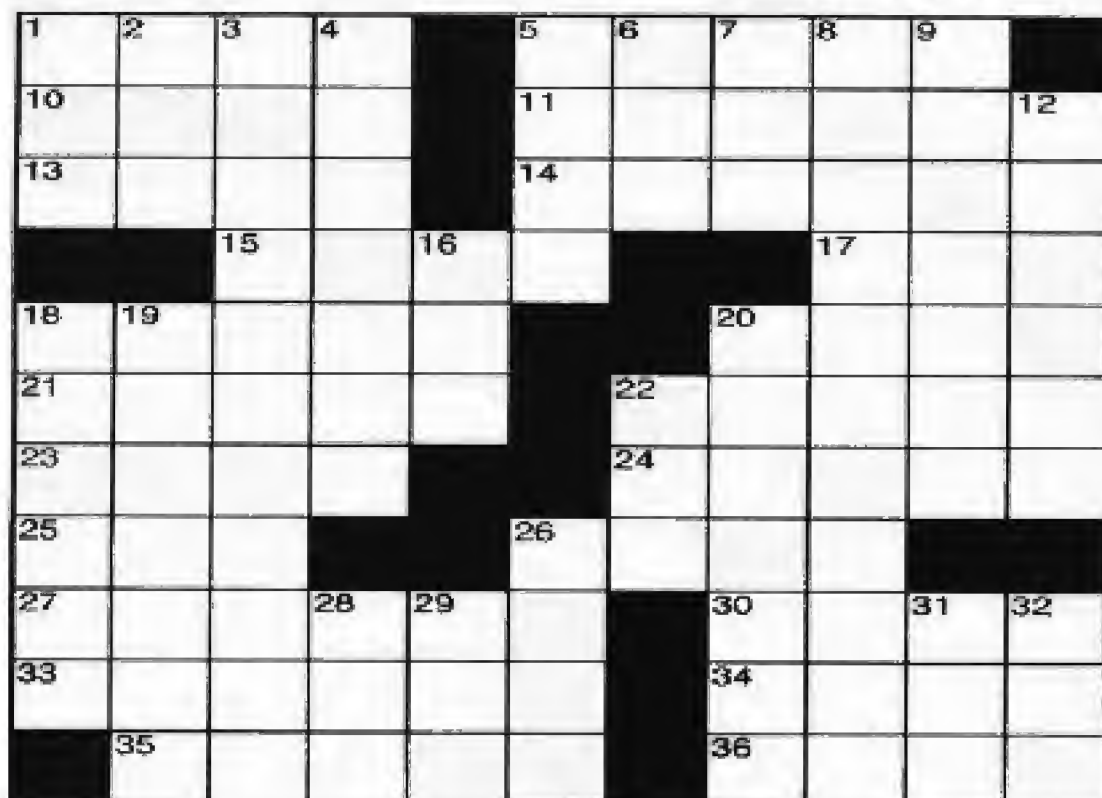
- 27 Some shower gifts
- 30 "Or \_\_\_ at long last love?" (2 wds.)
- 33 Exits
- 34 \_\_\_ Cooper (car)
- 35 Winter weather
- 36 Means justifiers, some-times

### DOWN

- 1 Couple

### 2 Lout

- 3 Like some PBS shows
- 4 Wanted
- 5 Disney dog
- 6 Citrus drink
- 7 \_\_\_ Ami
- 8 Adam's legacy? (2 wds.)
- 9 Thrift store transactions
- 12 Dethrone
- 16 Address bk. line
- 18 Strident
- 19 Submarines
- 20 Heavenly
- 22 Eastern "truth"
- 26 Attention-getting sound
- 28 WALL-E's love
- 29 Previously named
- 31 Unaffiliated voter (abbr.)
- 32 It is, to Keats



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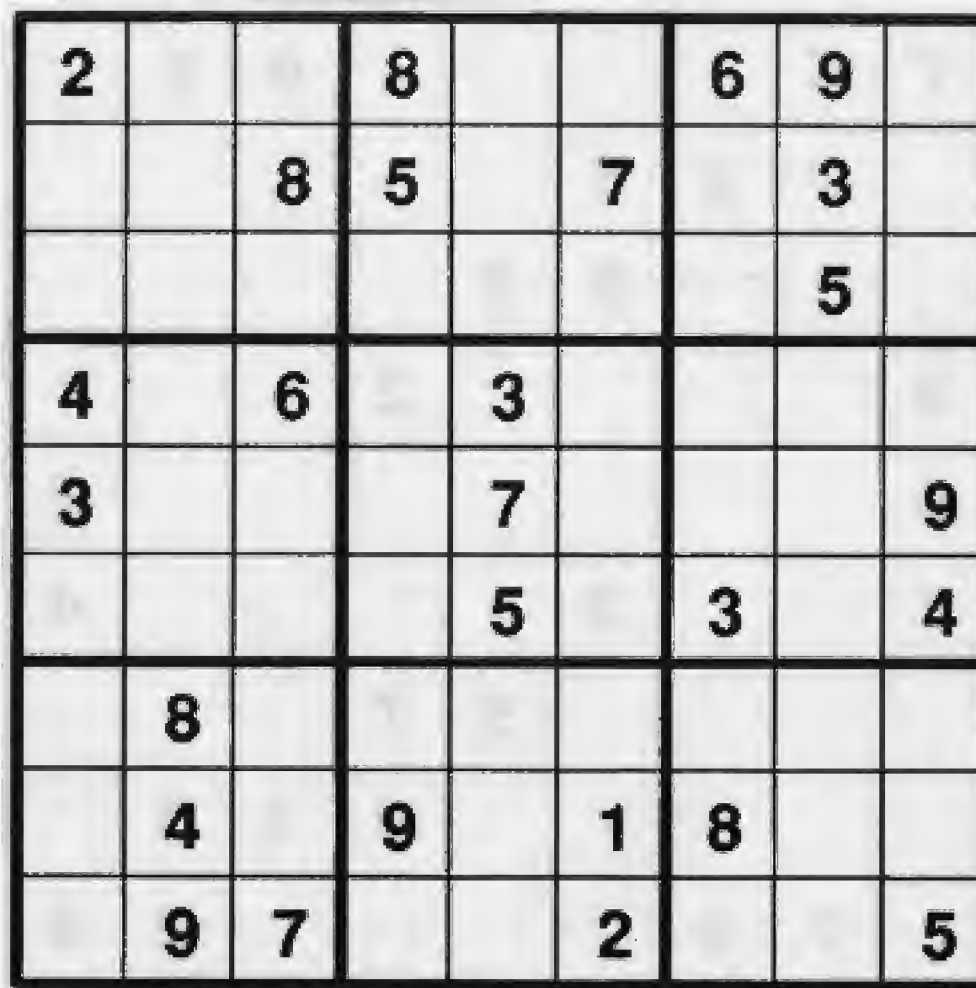
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# Sudoku



SOLUTION

9	1	2	8	5	7	3	4	6
8	2	9	1	6	3	5	7	4
5	3	8	9	7	2	1	6	4
6	9	5	2	1	3	8	4	7
7	8	6	3	1	9	5	2	4
8	5	2	9	7	1	3	4	6
1	2	7	3	5	8	9	6	4
2	9	1	6	4	3	7	5	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



# O Condominiums

## A small, exclusive boutique condo resort tailored to your taste



Aruba's most successful developers of secure, superior communities for both the permanent and part time resident market, will soon break ground on what they consider their most exclusive project to date. Known for 16 years of unmatched quality and service, the Cas Bon people are proud to unveil their new pet

project: O Condominiums. This is the same company which developed the innovative Gold Coast Villas community in Malmok.

Renowned for reliable construction, developers of O Condominiums consider the boutique community will be the "jewel in the crown" of the nine projects they have successfully completed and

maintain. It is only three stories and twenty luxurious units, of which 14 will be oceanfront, the remainder, ocean view. Sizes range from one bedroom condominiums with a bath and a half to three-bedrooms, each bedroom with its own bath, and an additional guest half/bath. The designs include a family entertainment room that will

be specially fitted with electronic and Internet connections and outlets enabling a state-of-the-art-home theater. An important aspect of this singular facility is owners have various options to customize kitchens and fixtures to their particular tastes and standards.

Each apartment sports an extremely spacious 35 square meter covered terrace overlooking the sea. Windows will be double-paned and doors

have weather stripping to insure less cost on air-conditioning, which is integrated into construction. Homeowners will have input into the finishing they prefer in the kitchen and other rooms, to customize your condominium to your taste. Public amenities will include an elegant pool deck, concierge

services, lounge area, BBQ station, fitness room, assigned parking, additional outside storage for bicycles and personal items, and 24-hour security. A quiet, secluded section of Eagle beach is only a few steps from the front door.

O Condominiums officially opened the doors of their sales office onsite at Eagle Beach on December 24. Interested parties can inspect the project in a spacious plot right next to the gourmet Screaming Eagle restaurant. The project is directed towards discerning clients seeking a top quality property on Aruba in an ideal, tranquil, beachfront location. Prospective property owners will find the Cas Bon people enjoy an exceptional reputation on Aruba for excellence and reliability.

Contact the sales office at 297-732-0000/ 297-287-5300 or visit their website: <http://www.o-eaglebeach.aruba.com>

# Discover authentic Aruban cuisine at

## The Queen's



Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen

Enjoy a true taste of Aruba without having to travel in the charming surroundings of The Queen's Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Your host, Varella Innocencia has brought her very popular Oranjestad eatery to Palm Beach, showcasing authentic local cuisine only a short walk away from the major resorts.

The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Luisa's magical touch in the kitchen is what

first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. She can be counted on to be conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generation. As Varella says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home."

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

Be sure to try Luisa's acclaimed "Carni Stoba di Ma-

machi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena - "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe prepara-

tion of banana hasa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.

queensaruba.com/.

Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining.



## Golf: Brooks leads, Campillo, Nel card 59s at rain-hit Mandela event

DURBAN (AFP) - England's Daniel Brooks remained in charge at the rain-ravaged Nelson Mandela Championship on Friday while Jorge Campillo and Colin Nel carded 59s.

Spain's Campillo and South African Nel both broke the 60 barrier although they will not enter the record books as preferred lies were allowed on Mount Edgecombe's saturated fairways.

Following lengthy delays on both Wednesday and Thursday, organisers were forced to reduce the tournament to 54 holes after another three-hour delay on Friday.

Campillo had two eagles and seven birdies to reach 11 under par for the tournament, while first round leader Brooks was 12 under with seven holes of his second round remaining when darkness brought play to a halt.

England's Matthew Baldwin shot a 62 to share the clubhouse lead with Campillo, with home favourites Branden



Jorge Campillo of Spain (left) and South Africa's Colin Nel signal their rounds of 59 at the Nelson Mandela Championship

Grace, Oliver Bekker and Dawie van der Walt on ten under.

"We play other par 70s on Tour, but you still have to shoot 59 and I'm pretty happy with the way I finished," said 27-year-old Campillo.

"I was never close to 59 before, but in the Dutch Open I was eight under with three holes to go on a par 70. Finishing with three birdies would have put me on 59 but I fin-

ished par-par-bogey. That helped me a lot today, because finishing well was important and I did it."

Despite his 59, Nel was back on four under for the tournament after an opening 77.

The tournament started a day early than scheduled so as to avoid a clash with Nelson Mandela's funeral Sunday, but has been hit by lengthy delays on all three days of play.

## Football: 'Unfair' if Ronaldo denied Ballon d'Or - Real



MADRID (AFP) - Real Madrid president Florentino Perez said Friday it would be unfair if star striker Cristiano Ronaldo failed to win the Ballon d'Or for World Footballer of the Year in 2013.

"I am convinced he will win because it would be an injustice if he didn't when everyone knows he's the best player in the world," the Real president told reporters during annual Christmas drinks with the media.

Ronaldo has been shortlisted alongside Barcelona forward Lionel Messi and Bayern Munich's French winger Franck Ribery for the Ballon d'Or, which is to be presented in Zurich on January 13.

The Portuguese won the

award in 2008 but he has had to watch it being handed over to Argentine archrival Messi in every year since.

This year, the injury-hit Messi seems to be less of a favourite while Ronaldo has been dazzling on the pitch. On Tuesday, he became the first player to score nine goals in the group stages of the Champions League as Real won 2-0 away at FC Copenhagen.

Nevertheless, the 28-year-old striker was clearly upset by recent comments by FIFA president Sepp Blatter, who described Ronaldo as a "commander" and mocked his demeanour on the field. Blatter also said he personally preferred Messi as a player.

Questioned by reporters,

Ronaldo later refused even to confirm he would attend the Ballon d'Or ceremony this year.

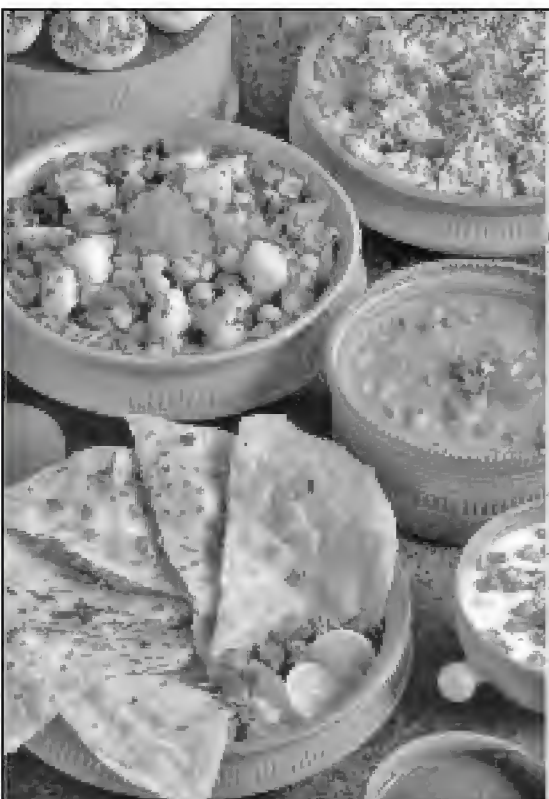
But Real's chief was confident the player would turn up. "Until now he has always gone to the awards," Perez said.

The club president said he hoped Real would win their longed-for 10th Champions League trophy. "It would be a gift for all our fans, especially for our members," he said.

Perez added he and coach Carlo Ancelotti are hoping Xabi Alonso will extend his contract, which expires next summer. "He knows we would be delighted if he carries on with us next season," said Perez.

The Real chief said he had not heard anything from club officials of a possible departure by Argentine international Angel Di Maria, who has lost his starting place in the team.





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### BRIEFS:



BRECKENRIDGE (AFP) - Anais Caradeux of France in action as she finished fifth in the women's ski superpipe at the Dew Tour iON Mountain Championships yesterday.



BRECKENRIDGE (AFP) - Brita Sigourney in action as she finished third in the women's ski superpipe at the Dew Tour iON Mountain Championships on Friday.



HERNING (AFP) - (From L) Denmark's Lotte Friis (2nd), winner Spain's Garcia Belmonte and Dutch Sharon Rouwendaal (3rd) celebrate after the 800m Freestyle event of the Len European Short Course Swimming Championships in Herning, Denmark on Friday.



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## EPB San Nicolaas Is School Basketball Champion

ORANJESTAD - On Tuesday, December 10th the final national game of school basketball for advanced education took place at the Centro Deportivo Betico Croes in Santa Cruz.

After the regular games on schedule, the schools selected to play in the finals were Maria College, Abraham de Veer, EPB San Nicolaas and La Salle College.

The first game played between Maria College and Abraham de Veer was won by default to Maria College. The following game was played between EPB San Nicolaas and La Salle College.

EPB San Nicolaas won both sets to score 30-8 and 28-13 and achieved a total of 58 points to pass for the final championship game.

The game between Abraham



EPB Pariba Champions



Maria College Sub Champion



La Salle College 3rd place

de Veer and La Salle College for the third and fourth place, was won by La Salle College by default making La Salle College to stay in the play in third place with Abraham de

Veer in the fourth place.

In the final game Maria College and EPB San Nicolaas squared off. This game was for champion and sub championship and was won by EPB

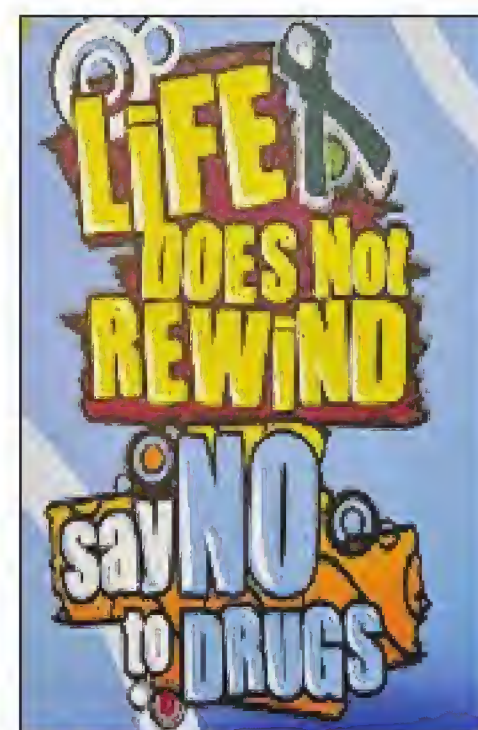
San Nicolaas in both sets with score of 9-18 and 10-16 with a total points of 34, putting EPB San Nicolaas in first place for the School Basketball Championship title. Maria College remained in second place.

IBISA congratulates all our schools that participated in the 2013 school basketball for Advanced Education

Special congrats to the winning school - EPB San Nicolaas....great job guys!

### Jacoby Ellsbury donned his No. 22 Yankees jersey for the first time Friday.

NEW -YORK -Ellsbury becomes the latest in a line of players who have jumped from the Red Sox to the Yankees. Johnny Damon made a similar switch in 2005 after winning a World Series with the Red Sox in 2004. "It's definitely been done before," Ellsbury said when asked of switching from the Red Sox to the Yankees. "[I have] nothing but great things to say about my old team. I'm just truly honored to be here. I know the rivalry being in the AL East, it's just going to be an exciting time; I'm just happy to put on this jersey and hat." Ellsbury's time in Boston included three seasons where he stole at least 50 bases, including a career-high 70 in 2009. He batted over or just shy of .300 three times; had a 2011 season where he hit 32 home runs, drove in 105 RBIs, and finished second in MVP voting; and helped the Red Sox win two World Series titles.



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## Formula One: Sutil joins Sauber - team

BERLIN (AFP) - Germany's Adrian Sutil will race for Sauber next season, the Swiss Formula One team announced Friday.

The 30-year-old was forced to look for another drive after his previous team Force India named Nico Hulkenberg and Sergio Perez as their drivers for next season.

"After six seasons with Force India and many great moments, it was time for me to embark on a new challenge," said Sutil in a statement released by Sauber.

Sutil's arrival was made possible by compatriot Hulkenberg's defection to Force India, to be partnered by Mexican Perez, who arrived from McLaren.

Sutil's partner next season has not yet been announced but young Mexican Esteban Gutierrez, who raced for the team in 2013, could keep his seat.

"I'm delighted because we've wanted to work with Adrian for a while," said Sauber's general manager Monisha Kaltenborn.

After spells in various other racing series, Sutil joined the then Midland F1 team as a test driver in 2006.

The next year he became a Grand Prix racer for the Spyker F1 team, which had bought out Midland.

A year later the team was again sold and renamed Force India, but Sutil's entire F1 career has essentially been with the same outfit.

Earlier on Friday his manager Manfred Zimmermann had revealed that Sutil's future in the sport had been secured for next season, although without disclosing his destination.

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## Cycling: Armstrong 'bought' Million Dollar Race - report

ROME (AFP) - Retired Italian rider Roberto Gaggioli told Friday's edition of the Corriere della Sera that Lance Armstrong paid him \$100,000 in 1993 in order to win the Million Dollar Race in the United States.

"It was a young American colleague," Gaggioli, who is now 51, was quoted as saying. "He offered me a panettone (a traditional Italian Christmas cake) as a present and wished me a merry Christmas. In the box there were \$100,000 in

small bills. That colleague was Lance Armstrong.

"Lance said that my team, Coors Light, had agreed to it. I understood that it had all been decided," added Gaggioli in reference to Armstrong's win in the CoreStates race in Philadelphia which was crucial to him winning the one million dollar prize for the victor of three races held over 21 days.

The Million Dollar Race, which was known as the Thrift Drug Triple Crown, was comprised of the Pittsburgh Clas-



file photo: Roberto Gaggioli

sic, the West Virginia Classic and the CoreStates race.

"Two laps from the end, I was in a breakaway with Lance, Bobby Julich and some Italian riders from the Mercatone team. When Lance made a sign, I turned away as if not to see that he had escaped. He broke away to win on his own."

The newspaper added that other riders also failed to respond to Armstrong's attack because they too had been bought, and cited one, Roberto

Pelliconi, who said: "Angelo Canzonieri (another rider) and Lance agreed on a fee of 50, Angelo thought he meant dollars but Lance meant lire."

"At the Tour of Lombardy he gave us 50 million (lire)."

Armstrong, who was riding for Motorola at the time and is now 42, was officially stripped of his seven Tour de France wins in 2012 after being found guilty of a string of doping offences.

He publicly admitted that he had cheated earlier this year.